GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5310
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
POLLUTION IN RIVERS
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain rivers continue to be more toxic despite antipollution campaign and the Government has received any report from Central Water Commission in this regard;

(b) whether the Government has undertaken any review of the anti-pollution campaign; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and follow up action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) As informed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment & Forests \(MoEF), out of 128 rivers being monitored by them for trace metals and pesticides residues, the observed values indicate the presence of metals exceeding acceptable limit for ambient waters in 53 rivers. The Government has not received any report from Central Water Commission in this regard.

(b)&(c) Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) has informed that under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) of MoEF, public participation and awareness is one of the components for creating awareness among general public and important stakeholders regarding the need to conserve the rivers of the country. Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever - increasing pollution load due to rapid urbanization and increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers under NRCP are continuous process aimed towards ameliorating the water quality in rivers. Meetings are held by MoEF with concerned Ministries, independent experts in the field and Non Government Organizations (NGOs) for discussion on revamping of the National River Conservation Plan.